

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ABUJA 000728

SIPDIS

E FOR UNDER-SECRETARY LARSON
AF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KANSTEINER
ALSO FOR E/EB/CBA - NSMITH-NISSLEY

FROM AMBASSADOR JETER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [BEXP](#) [EINV](#) [ELAB](#) [ETRD](#) [SENV](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: NOMINATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S AWARD
FOR CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

REF: (A) STATE 55713, (B) STATE 84067, (C) STATE 93791

1. There are several American companies in Nigeria that might qualify for the Secretary's Award for Corporate Excellence; however, one stands heads and shoulders above the rest. Chevron is the largest single American investor in Nigeria and the second largest producer of Nigerian oil. It is also a distinguished "Corporate Ambassador of Goodwill". Chevron's activities have attracted our attention, and the attention of many others, through its charitable outreach, social responsibility, and determination to tackle and overcome some of the most intractable social and economic problems that confront Nigeria. I believe that Chevron Nigeria Limited is eminently qualified for the Secretary's Award for Corporate Excellence, and I hope that you will agree.

2. Chevron Nigeria is a unit of Chevron Corporation. One of the world's largest integrated petroleum enterprises, the company has operated in Nigeria since 1961. Chevron's strong commitment to corporate social responsibility is reflected in its programs promoting education, health, sustainable economic development and humanitarian assistance. Most beneficiaries are communities in the remote Niger Delta, an area rich in oil and natural gas, and one which presents enormous operational challenges and even larger problems of public safety and security. During the past decade, Chevron spent more than \$30 million on water facilities, electric power, landing jetties, roads, school buildings, scholarships, books, laboratories, teachers, health care, water transport, and civic centers for the people of the troubled Niger Delta region. In the past few years, Chevron decided to more than double that amount, targeting \$65 million for community program activities and significantly increasing the number of recipients.

3. Education is a key concern in Nigeria; specifically, facilitating educational access while halting the decline in educational quality in rural schools. In the remote marshy regions of the Niger Delta, school infrastructure is inadequate, poverty widespread, and qualified and motivated teachers scarce. Equally rare are teaching aids, textbooks, and laboratory equipment.

4. To help resolve these problems, Chevron has furnished and equipped 54 schools over the last ten years. Working with Nigeria's National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Chevron has provided housing and medical care to English, mathematics, and science teachers in order to attract and retain them in the Delta's rural areas. The results have been remarkable: increased student attendance at schools, improved academic performance, higher female student enrollment, and the introduction of extra-curricular activities.

5. To encourage science education in secondary schools and to support higher studies in engineering and technology, Chevron sponsors science fairs and competitions, and donates books, journals and professional manuals. To its singular credit, Chevron equipped a BioTechnology Center at the Federal University of Technology in Yola, the only such center in Nigeria. Moreover, Yola - located in Nigeria's distant and remote Northeast - is far from Chevron area of interest, the oil-producing Niger Delta.

16. Chevron also sponsors two scholarship programs: Community Scholarships, for youngsters near its operations; and National University Scholarships, open to all Nigerian students pursuing full-time degrees in Nigerian universities. Since 1993, Chevron has awarded 12,224 Community and 2,450 National University scholarships.

17. As remarkable as these achievements may seem, Chevron shows no sign of diminishing its engagement. Partnering with the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), a U.S.-based, non-profit organization founded by the late Reverend Leon Sullivan, Chevron commissioned the five-year Western Niger Delta Development Program (WNDDP) two years ago. WNDDP supports acquisition of technical skills, educational infrastructure, micro-enterprise, HIV/AIDS awareness, and conflict resolution.

18. Since WNDDP's inception, 260 young men and women have been trained in welding and fabrication, business development, marine services, computer literacy, and secretarial studies; two primary school buildings and

SIPDIS teachers' quarters are being built; some 250 small businesses have received micro-loans. An impressive 100 percent loan recovery rate was recorded in the program's first full cycle. WNDDP's loan portfolio has grown from eight million to fourteen million naira (from about \$62,000 to \$108,000) in just two years. Plans call for increasing the number of participating communities from four to thirty, with a commensurate growth in funding.

19. Chevron is also supporting another technical skills acquisition program through which 50 young men and women are trained annually in welding and metal fabrication, computer literacy, and secretarial studies. Graduates find jobs in the oil industry, set up their own businesses, or otherwise greatly enhance their prospects for public and private sector employment.

110. Chevron Nigeria is unmatched as a responsible U.S. corporate citizen in Nigeria. With its current budget of over \$65 million and 50 engineering and community development staff, Chevron Nigeria works with non-governmental organizations and local governments to support sustainable community economic growth and development. The goal: profitable enterprises that can be turned over to community-based owners.

111. Chevron Nigeria is positively involved in providing primary and secondary health care to the people of the Delta. Scheduled visits by the RiverBoat Clinic (RBC)--which has a full complement of doctors, nurses and health assistants--ensure regular health care to slightly more than three thousand people in the Niger Delta. Most of them live more than 100 kilometers from the nearest government-provided health facility. Central to Chevron's community healthcare initiative, RBC provides health care to remote, often inaccessible communities in the Delta, where typically there are no alternative services.

112. Chevron is acutely aware that HIV/AIDS is a medical, social and business issue that affects every aspect of life, and future prospects for Nigeria's social, economic, and political development. Its Chevron Workplace AIDS Prevention Program (CWAPP) focuses on peer education, community-based prevention, condom distribution, and training for supervisors, managers and union leaders. Since the late 1990s, Chevron has participated in World AIDS Day and the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Recognizing Chevron's exceptional service, President Obasanjo recently designated Chevron's Managing Director Co-Chair of Nigeria's public-private sector alliance in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. Chevron is also a member of Nigeria's National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA), where it is exploring possibilities to apply core corporate competencies in communications, marketing, and organization to NACA's programs to combat HIV/AIDS.

113. The target of Chevron's Adolescent Reproductive Health Program (CHARP) is its employees' children

between the ages of 12-19. Truly innovative, Chevron relies on its "edutainment" to reach these youngsters in ways they understand. Some 200 children and parents have participated in annual Chevron-sponsored HIV/AIDS workshops. Many of these people have become members of Chevron's Lifeline Adolescent Reproductive Education Klub (CLARK). Putting on dramatic plays and poetry readings, they serve as community role models and resources for peers and parents alike.

¶14. In addition to these health-related activities, Chevron Nigeria also partners with the Carter Center to combat river blindness and to sponsor primary health care programs for primary school children in its area of operation.

¶15. Equally important has been Chevron's humanitarian assistance. Frequent inter-ethnic and political rivalries have often led to violent conflicts near its operations. In the last four years, Chevron Nigeria has helped airlift more than 4,000 local villagers to safety. Two weeks ago, Chevron airlifted more than 2,000 villagers to safety after their villages had been attacked and destroyed by a rival ethnic group. After airlifting them to safety, the company also provided food assistance and temporary shelter, in collaboration with the Nigerian Government and local NGOs. Its medical personnel have worked with local leaders to provide relief services for internally displaced persons seeking refuge at Chevron facilities.

¶16. Much more could be written about Chevron's qualifications for the 2003 Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence. Suffice it to say that through its activities in Nigeria, Chevron has exemplified the highest standards of conduct with respect to good corporate citizenship, exemplary business practices, and innovation in its overseas operations. Its community-focused activities have won Chevron a special place of corporate distinction in Nigeria. Equally as important, its activities have also projected a positive image of the United States and helped to advance American foreign policy objectives. Chevron's programs help to improve and save lives.

¶17. I can think of no more fitting way for the Department to recognize Chevron's contributions than by selecting it this year for the Secretary's Award for Corporate Excellence.

JETER